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Message Text

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45
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 SS-20 L-03 AGR-20 OMB-01 EB-11

TRSE-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-10

DODE-00 SPM-01 DRC-01 /124 W
---------- 036286
P R 191322Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4873
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 2078

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, PFOR, MT, US
SUBJ: PL 480 TITLE II PROGRAM FOR MALTA

REF: STATE 204788 (NOTAL)

1. AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL I INFORMED MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE JOSEPH CASSAR THAT FOOD PROGRAM FOR MALTA COULD NOT BE EXTENDED BEYOND FY 1974. CASSAR NATURALLY EXPRESSED DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT AND SAID HE WOULD TAKE THE NEWS TO THE PRIME MINISTER. I SAID I WOULD OF COUSE BY PLEASED TO TALK TO PRIME MINISTER IF LATTER DESIRED.

2. CASSAR MADE TWO PARTICULAR POINTS: FIRST WAS TO RAISE POSSIBILITY THAT PROGRAM, WHICH HAD BEEN INCREASED LAST YEAR, MIGHT BE TAPERED OFF OVER SEVERAL YEARS RATHER THAN CUT OFF SHARPLY IN JUNE 1974. I TOLD HIM I SAW NO PROSPECT THAT THIS COULD BE DONE. SECONDLY, IN ORDER TO EASE THE PAIN, CASSA WANTED ASSURANCES THAT OTHER COUNTRY PROGRAMS ALSO HAD BEEN TERMINIATED.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CASSAR WAS PERSONALLY CORDIAL
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AND TO SOME DEGREE UNDERSTANDING (HE INCIDENTALLY

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RETURNED FROM A LEADER GRANT VISIT TO US LAST
MONTH) HIS CONCERN OVER MINTOFF'S REACTION WAS
EVIDENT. IF I AM TO BE CALLED TO MEET
WITH MINTOFF ON SUBJECT, ONE OF STRONGEST SUPPORTING
ARGUMENTS WOULD BE TO FURNISH NAMES OF COUNTRIES
IN WHICH FOOD PROGRAM IS BEING TERMINATED AT SAME TIME,
OR EVEN IN LAST FEW YEARS. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE
DEPARTMENT'S VIEW ON POSSIBILITY OF CUTTING PROGRAM,
FOR EXAMPLE BY 50 PERCENT IN FY 75 AND TERMINATED
IN FY 76.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: I WOULD APPRECIATE BY PRIORITY
RETURN CABLE IF POSSIBLE INFORMATION REQUESTED
REGARDING TERMINATION OF PROGRAMS IN OTHER COUNTRIES
BY NAME.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 19 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS GETZ
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: VALLETTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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